

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 470

By Coley

A RESOLUTION to congratulate the members and leaders of the St. Mary's Episcopal School of Memphis Mock Trial Team upon winning the State Championship.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause in its deliberations to recognize those outstanding educational organizations which, through their astounding success in competition, bring great honor to the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, one such organization is the St. Mary's Episcopal School of Memphis Mock Trial Team, which recently claimed the 2007 Mock Trial State Championship; and

WHEREAS, in its third trip to the State finals, St. Mary's defeated Family Christian Academy to win its first title; St. Mary's will now proudly represent Tennessee at the Nationals in Dallas; and

WHEREAS, fifteen high school teams from across Tennessee put their legal skills to the test during the Tennessee Bar Association (TBA)'s annual competition in Nashville; about 200 students, teachers, and coaches and 200 others volunteered their time and expertise; and

WHEREAS, sitting judges in the State presided over four preliminary rounds on Friday and Saturday, while Tennessee Supreme Court Justice Gary Wade presided over the championship match Saturday evening; and

WHEREAS, to reach the State finals, teams were required to win district competitions by playing the roles of attorneys and witnesses in a fictitious case developed by the TBA's Young Lawyers Division; and

WHEREAS, the members of this year's outstanding St. Mary's State Championship Mock Trial Team are Caroline Fentress, Kate Foster, Martha Gillon, Jenny Guyton, Morgan Jordan, Zina Kumok, Kat Morisy, Divya Moolchandani, and Maddy Pryor; and

WHEREAS, the team members are most grateful for the leadership of their coach, Jennifer Nichols, a former prosecutor and current attorney with the USPS; also indispensable to the team's progress toward this victory was the support of sponsor Pam Guinn, Chief Financial Officer for St. Mary's Episcopal School; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this legislative body should pause to commend the superlative talent and effort devoted by each team member and leader in participating in an important activity that provides the opportunity to learn firsthand about the work of trial attorneys, understand the judicial system, develop critical thinking skills, and enhance communication skills; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby congratulate Coach Jennifer Nichols, Sponsor Pam Guinn, and the members of the St. Mary's Episcopal School of Memphis Mock Trial Team upon winning the State Championship and extend to them our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.